

NPL Site Narrative for Plattsburgh Air Force Base

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE Plattsburgh, New York

Conditions at proposal (July 14, 1989): The Plattsburgh Air Force Base (PAFB) covers 3,440 acres in Clinton County, New York. The base is bordered on the north by the Saranac River and the City of Plattsburgh. Lake Champlain is to the east and the Salmon River borders the base on the south. The base was activated in 1955 to serve as a tactical wing in the Strategic Air Command. Ever since, the base has generated hazardous and potentially hazardous wastes by industrial shop operations, maintenance of aircraft, painting, fire fighting exercises, discharging of munitions, and spills. Contaminants generated include PCBs, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), trichloroethylene (TCE), dichlorobenzene, methylene chloride, and other organic solvents. Hazardous wastes were deposited in unlined landfills and burned in unlined pits.

Toluene, TCE, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, methylene chloride, and 1,2-dichloroethane are present in ditches draining areas where solvents and jet fuels were spilled. Tests conducted in 1987 found MEK, TCE, and trans-1,2-dichloroethylene in two shallow monitoring wells downgradient of a drum storage area. An estimated 2,000 people obtain drinking water from private wells within 3 miles of a base landfill.

The Air Force is conducting field investigations which include sampling of soil, ground water, and surface water at several areas cited during a 1985 records search of hazardous waste and spill areas.

PAFB is participating in the Installation Restoration Program (IRP), established in 1978. Under this program, the Department of Defense seeks to identify, investigate, and clean up contamination from hazardous materials.

Status (November 21, 1989): IRP activities continue.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.